

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

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P R 121729Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4796

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, AU

SUBJECT: OPEC: FEYIDE LUNCH

FOR EB

REF: STATE 31062 (NOTAL)

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1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES OUR IMPRESSIONS OF AMBASSADOR'S

LUNCH WITH CHIEF FEYIDE, SENIOR OPEC SECRETARIAT STAFFERS, AND A FEW OTHER QUESTS FROM LOCAL OFFICIAL AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY. ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY AND COMPLETELY RELAXED.

2. IN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS AMBASSADOR CONGRATULATED OPEC AND CHIEF FEYIDE ON LATTER'S APPOINTMENT AND DRAWING ON SECRETARY'S FEBRUARY 3 SPEECH (PARA 1, REFTEL), STRESSED MUTUALITY OF INTEREST OF CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS AND DESIRE OF CONSUMING COUNTRIES TO WORK TOGETHER WITH PRODUCERS TO SOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS. CHIEF FEYIDE RESPONDED THAT OPEC DID NOT WANT CONFRONTATION BUT COOPERATION WITH CONSUMERS. HE SAID IN EFFECT THAT IT WAS NOT GOOD FOR EITHER SIDE TO HAVE AN ADVANTAGE OVER THE OTHER; THERE MUST BE SOLUTIONS THAT BOTH SIDES COULD LIVE WITH. "A DEAL THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU AND NOT ME WOULD NOT LAST. CONVERSELY, A DEAL GOOD FOR ME BUT NOT FOR YOU WOULD NOT LAST EITHER." HE REFERRED TO HIS MANY YEARS' ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN LAGOS AND SAID THAT THROUGH THESE ASSOCIATIONS HE HAS BECOME FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT AMERICA WANTS PEACE IN THE WORLD AND HAS MADE MANY SACRIFICES TOWARDS THAT END. OPEC, HE SAID, WELCOMES CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT OPEC REATIONS TO PRESIDENT FORD'S CONSERVATION MEASURES BAHMAN KARBASSIOUN (ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO SECGEN) COMMENTED, TO AN EMBOFF, "WE WELCOME THEM, OF COURSE."

4. OPEC EXPERTS' GROUP, NOW MEETING TO FORMULATE AGENDA FOR OPEC SUMMIT, WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE THROUGH WEEK. OPEC STAFFERS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF EXPERTS' MEETINGS, BUT AIT CHAALAL (CHIEF, ADMINISTRATION DEPT.) STRESSED THEIR IMPORTANCE IN FORMULATING POSITIONS NOT ONLY FOR UPCOMING MINISTERS' MEETING (ON 19 AND 20 FEBRUARY) AND SUMMIT CONFERENCE, BUT ALSO FOR SUBSEQUENT PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE.

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5. KARBASSIOUN TOLD ANOTHER EMBOFF THAT THE EXPERTS ARE PREPARING GROUND WORK FOR A "SOLEMN DECLARATION" TO BE ISSUED AT OPEC SUMMIT IN ALGIERS. EXPERTS' PROPOSALS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE OIL MINISTERS HERE NEXT WEEK FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL FOR PRESENTATION TO OPEC HEADS OF STATE. "SOLEMN DECLARATION" WOULD FIX PARAMETERS OF OPEC POSITIONS AT PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS RECYCLING, AID TO

LDC'S, INFLATION AND EXCHANGE RATE ISSUES, AND ASSUR-
ANCE OF ENERGY SUPPLIES. ELABORATING ON LATTER
SUBJECT, STAFFER SAID OPEC IS THINKING IN TERMS OF
HELPING FINANCE COSTS OF RESEARCHING ALTERNATE
ENERGY SOURCES IN INTEREST OF CONSERVING OIL RESERVES.
KARBASSIOUN EMPHASIZED OPEC WANTED TO DISCUSS MORE
THAN JUST OIL PRICES AT P/C CONFERENCE.

6. CYPRUS SAMII, FORMER HEAD OF TECHNICAL DEPT.
AND NOW ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, SAID THAT
OPEC COUNTRIES WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO A PRODUCER/
CONSUMER CONFERENCE, BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A
CONFERENCE THAT TALKS ABOUT A GREAT MANY OTHER THINGS
BESIDES OIL SUCH AS INFLATION IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,
TERMS OF TRADE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, OTHER COMMODITIES, ETC. HE WENT OUT OF
HIS WAY TO INSIST THAT OPEC COUNTRIES FIRMLY IN
CAMP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND NOT A SEPARATE
GROUPING. AS TO REPRESENTATION AT A P/C
CONFERENCE, SAMII SAID ALL COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO
BE REPRESENTED NOT DIRECTLY BUT THROUGH DESIGNATED
COUNTRIES ACTING AS SPOKESMEN FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE
GROUPS.

7. UNDERSTAND THAT DR. NAZAR H. AL-KHALAF,
ACTING CHIEF OF LEGAL DEPT. AT OPEC, ATTENDED
THE DAKAR CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES LAST WEEK.HUMES

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